

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A method and device for formatting instrumentation data for collection by an external monitoring facility. A laboratory information system (LIS) computing device receives laboratory instrument output from one or more laboratory instruments. The LIS transfers the data to the operating system for printing. In a first embodiment, a modified printer driver receives the data from the operating system. The driver formats the data according to a standardized format utilizing one or more data store lookups. The formatted data is stored in a file for extraction by the monitoring facility. In a second embodiment, the operating system sends the data to a standard printer driver which formats the data for printing and transfers the data to a modified port monitor. Similar to the modified printer driver, the modified port monitor formats the data utilizing one or more data store lookups and stores the result in a formatted file for extraction by the external monitoring facility. The present invention allows an LIS to format laboratory instrument data for collection without requiring modification to the LIS or the operating system.